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WHY BUILD HOUSE AND LEAVE OFF ROOF FOR RAIN?

Everybody Converted to Good Roads Idea — Cost Only Consideration

HAS PLENTY ROADS BUT WILL VOTE FOR BONDS

By L. E. Huggins
Nobody has the nerve to argue against good roads. There is no more argument against them than there is against religion. The cost is the only thing that comes in for consideration, and we might as well argue against the improvement of farm lands because such improvement costs too much. Everybody is converted to the good roads idea, but there are some mighty good people in the county looking for "boogers," and there is a newspaper man whose usefulness and service to the county might be materially increased if he would wear a blind bridle so as to avoid getting "skered" at things from the rear.

Nobody will deny the fact that the road system of Union county is incomplete—that the lateral roads must have attention either by direct taxation for maintenance or through a bond issue for their construction, in order that they may be put in shape for maintenance at a nominal cost. However, the idea is prevalent among some citizens that just because some money has been unwisely spent by officials who had no way of learning except by experience we should stop the program and let the unfinished roads and those already built go to rack and ruin.

That's some argument. Might as well argue that when a man lets a contract for the erection of a residence and later learns that he has spent too much money on the main part of the house he should stop the work and refuse to have the roof put on, although he has learned that he can finish the structure at what the work is actually worth, and let the thing rot down just because he has expended too much money on it. And especially if the man who is having the house built gets "skered to death" over his bill, and throws away the \$5000 he has already invested. Yes, sir, that's sound argument and everybody should let it soak in.

And then just think that the road building program is costing the people of the county about \$90,000 a year! Why, that's between two and three dollars each for the entire population of the county. And who wouldn't rather tear up a \$500 Ford or \$2,000 automobile and burn hundreds of extra gallons of gas or pull \$200 mules to death and wreck good wagons and make two trips instead of one than pay the two or three dollars a year for good roads? How silly people are to spend two or three dollars for every member of the family in building good roads!

If a man tears up an automobile or kills a fine mule on bad roads he can buy more—just so he saves the two or three dollars with which to make the purchase. Let's stop this foolishness of building good roads and have the two or three dollars and buy a tract of land or a couple of fine mules or a John Henry or Buick with the amount!

But here comes along a certain element of citizens foolish enough to ask for more bonds to finish the job—to build roads for the fellow who has none, although he is paying taxes to help liquidate the debt incurred in the building of roads for his neighbor. What shall we say about such cranks?

Why that bond issue would cost about a dollar a year each, when the money might be saved to buy chewin' and spittin' tobacco. Lots of these fellows who have all the good roads they need for themselves are actually so stupid as to advocate a bond issue to build roads for somebody else. They want Union county to provide a way for everybody in it to get to Union county towns when there are towns in adjoining counties that would be glad to have their trade. Why keep Union county money in Union county when when there are bankers and merchants in the other counties who would welcome it. They have road taxes to pay and would like to have Union county money with which to make the payments. Why not let 'em have it, just so our taxes are held down a "leettle bit." What's the use of swapping one dollar for five when other counties are willing to do the stunt for us?

Have the people gone crazy? Why, I heard a fellow say a few days ago that he didn't want any more roads. He explained that he has a good road to town, one to his church and one to his school. "I don't need any more roads," he continued, but that fellow went on to say that he expects to vote for the bond issue so his neighbors and friends who are paying taxes for his good roads can enjoy the same privilege. What are we going to call that man? Is he crazy, or does he have a real, genuine human heart in him?

And there are hundreds of other fellows in the county who will vote for the bond issue in justice to those who do not have good roads to travel and because it appears to be the most economical and far-sighted thing to do.

Don't forget to pay your taxes, both city and county.

JACK HARDING, BEFORE GIVING BOND, DISAPPEARS

Where is Jack Harding? That's what Policeman Estridge of Waxhaw wants to know. Yesterday Jack was tried in the Recorder's court on a charge of carrying concealed weapons and was fined \$75 and costs on that charge and bound over to Superior court on a charge of secret assault on Mr. Henry Collins of Waxhaw some time ago.

It will be remembered that Harding, while under the influence of intoxicants, is charged with compelling Mr. Collins at the point of a pistol to hitch up his horse at the stable of the latter and to have otherwise mistreated him.

Harding's bond was fixed yesterday at \$500 and it appears that Policeman Estridge was preparing to take Harding to Waxhaw where he expected to have the bond prepared, but before the trip was made Harding disappeared in an automobile and is reported as having gone to Charlotte, and from thence he probably joined the "bird gang." Now Policeman Estridge is hunting his man with a great deal of enthusiasm.

THAT FOOL MULE LIKES HIS CHICKEN DIET FINE

Union county hog-raisers are acquainted with the fool idea of some members of the swine tribe that chickens were intended for hogs to eat, but here comes a story from the Statesville Landmark to the effect that a fool mule in that section became possessed of the opinion that the long-eared son-of-a-gun had a perfect right to partake of that particular kind of food especially designed for preachers. Here's the story:

"If the mule is descended from meat-eating ancestry its emergence from the strain, from all appearances, took place a long while ago. Whether the fondness of a present-day mule for a meat diet reveals an atavistic tendency whether it is a case of amnesia and mistaken identity, or whether the mule in question is just a plain fool mule with a perverted taste, are matters not to be settled in lay circles. This mule eats chicken, preferably broilers. No matter what he is eating whenever a chicken steps into the stall, he goes for it.

"It is not an occasional performance, it is a habit. Nor is it a healthful habit. The more chickens he eats the thinner he gets. That is the experience Aleck Waddell, colored, had with him. Aleck sold him at the last term of court; they couldn't keep a chicken on the place. He was a good, fat mule according to Aleck's wife, when they bought him from Mr. J. E. Sloop.

"Mr. Sloop happened to mention the conduct of the mule in casual conversation, and when approached, affirmed the report. In order to present a case that would satisfy all comers that the history of the mule be followed after he went out of his possession. Aleck lives five miles east of the city, on the Salisbury road, to the right of the railroad bridge.

"The present owner of the animal—whoever the fortunate man may be—may not wish to corroborate this story, but Aleck will."

DR. BURRELL HAS GREAT MEETING IN VIRGINIA

(Farmville, Va. Herald, May 11)

Evangelistic services, at the Baptist Church conducted by Rev. W. R. Burrell of Monroe, N. C., have been largely attended throughout the past week. Many people from the surrounding country are attending the meetings in large numbers. Automobiles have been parked on Main Street for several blocks while their occupants hear the sermons delivered by Rev. Burrell.

The evangelist is a speaker of magnetic personality, of pleasing delivery, who preaches the gospel in a plain, forceful manner. His sermons for the past week have touched the hearts of many of his congregations and great good is being manifested daily.

The meeting opened on last Sunday night at which time the Billy Sunday Club of Lynchburg had charge of the services. "Trap" Martin, secretary of the Club, who is well known in business circles of Farmville was the leader and several impressive talks were given at this time. This is the second appearance of the Club in Farmville and their meetings are always valuable and inspiring.

Water E. Hines of Lynchburg who is leading in the musical program has organized a senior choir of one hundred voices, whose singing stirs the very soul.

In addition to this, there is a junior choir of seventy-five voices, which is exceptionally fine. Mr. Hines has had considerable experience in organizing and training choirs and his work at the local church is especially pleasing to all.

The minister, Rev. W. R. Burrell, has prepared special sermons for the next week, which will be of great benefit to the citizens of this community, who will hear him.

Members of all congregations are invited and urged to attend the meetings and join in the great work which is being done in this community.

The Main Point

"Pardon me, madam," said the insurance agent, "but what is your age?"

"I've seen twenty-three summers," replied Miss Antique, cordially.

"Yes, of course," returned the insurance agent, "but how many times have you seen them?"

Lawyers and Commissioners Certify That No Old Road Contract Can Be Revived.

Four weeks or more ago The Journal stated on the authority of the road commissioners that the report that old contracts would be revived in case new bonds were voted, was untrue. Nevertheless the absurd statement has been repeated and circulated by persons opposed to the bond issue. The report is absolutely without foundation in truth. Every one of the old contracts were terminated when the work stopped and settlement was made. Not a one of the contractors would be simple enough to come up and expect a renewal. If they did no sane road commissioner would listen to it for a moment. When the bonds are voted the contracts are going to be let wherever possible to home people, the money will remain in the country.

The following statement should forever put to rest the foolish statement about the old contractors coming back. After this evidence the man who circulates the report is not doing it for honest purposes and is untrustworthy. The statements follow:

To Whom it May Concern:—Understanding that the opponents of road bonds are circulating a report to the effect that in the event bonds are voted, uncompleted contracts will be resumed by contractors at prices obtaining when contracts were let, we hereby inform the public that the contracts under which the work was let contained a provision for termination of the work contracted for, at the option of the Road Commission, and that the contracts have been terminated and none of the contractors claim or will claim that any of the contracts are in force.

The original contracts are on file in this office and any person suffi-

ciently interested in the facts can look at them and submit them to any attorney in the State and see if this is not correct.

J. D. McRAE,
T. G. COLLINS,
J. F. THOMPSON,
Road Commissioners Union County.

I hereby certify that my firm is counsel for the Road Commission of Union County and that I drafted the contracts under which road construction has been carried on. The contracts contain a provision which was inserted in contemplation of the possibility that the funds might be exhausted before work was completed and provide that "if for reason satisfactory to itself, the Commission shall see fit so to do, the Commission may stop work by any contractor upon payment of the actual value of the work done by him on any project under this contract by giving said contractor notice to quit, without further liability for breach of contract or any claim by the contractor except for work actually done."

My information is that such notice has been given to all contractors and that nobody except the opponents of road bonds is making the claim that the old contracts are in force. These contracts will not come in on the next bond issue.

J. C. M. VANN, Atty.

To the Road Commission of Union county, Monroe, N. C.:
Gentlemen:—Your secretary has asked me to give you an opinion as to your right to cancel contract with J. C. Zobris, and others. My opinion is that you have a right to cancel this contract at any time you see fit, without liability.

Yours truly,
JOHN C. SIKES.

Good Roads Get Big Boost at Rotary Luncheon Today

Addresses by Hon. J. N. Price and Mr. Upton, who speaks at the Chautauqua tent this afternoon, were the main features of the Rotary meeting at 1 o'clock today.

Mr. Price was introduced by J. Z. Green of Marshville and made a masterful plea for the proposed bond issue to continue the road-building program in the county. Mr. Price stated that we are in the most critical stage of road-building in the history of the county—that we must either go forward or retrograde—and declared that if the bond issue fails to carry we will soon be where we started, and have it all to do over.

One of the most interesting phases of Mr. Price's speech was that dealing with the wonderful development of the country. He declared that there are eighty-one counties in the state worth less than Union and that the State road-building program is putting North Carolina on the map and he plead that Union county keep step with the progress of other counties. He referred to Farm Demonstrator Broom as having done more for the agricultural interests of the county than anybody else and said if we will let Tom Broom alone he will teach the farmers of Union how to raise and sell enough eggs and butter to more than pay road tax. He declared financiers from the North are investigating possibilities in North Carolina and that South Carolina is sending representatives to see what we are doing.

Mr. Price referred to a time when it took him three hours to come from his farm to Monroe and stated that today he came in fifteen minutes. Good roads and automobiles have done it, he declared, and pledged his best efforts for the continuation of the good work until the other fellow has the same opportunities and privileges that he enjoys.

Mr. Price closed with a plea to the

Rotarians to get busy and let's save Union county, declaring that thirty-five men can do it if they will become sufficiently interested and place the issue squarely before the people, who are open-minded and honest. He wondered if there is a man in the Rotary club or in Monroe who is opposed to the issue.

Mr. John Schenk, superintendent of the Chautauqua, was introduced and made a few pleasing remarks, after which President Henderson presented Mr. Upton, who brought down the house with his splendid wit and wonderful logic.

Mr. Upton referred to Union county's campaign for more bonds and congratulated her upon her progressive steps. He told something of the value of good roads and related a story of a traveler in Texas who once desired to travel to the top of a high peak and the roads were so bad that the only way he could make the journey was on horseback. After riding for hours he and the guide reached the top and the latter turned to him and remarked: "Stranger, you are now sitting on the highest spot in Texas." "Good Lord," replied the traveler. "I am now sitting on the sorest spot in the world."

After riveting the attention of his hearers with the above story, Mr. Upton launched into a discussion of progress. He declared that some men are born in the objective case, object to everything and offer a lot of free advice which is worth one half what it costs. They are always afraid of high taxes and believe they are going to be so high that they will be compelled to live on snow balls for four years.

The meeting was a very enthusiastic one and was a big boost for good roads and the bond issue.

THE CHAUTAUQUA WILL COME AGAIN NEXT YEAR

Tomorrow night the Redpath Chautauqua will close its tenth annual program in Monroe with a concert—Mata's Blue and White Marimba Band.

The program this year has been above the average and the attendance has been large. Today the directors elected new officers and engaged the Redpath folks for another year.

The new officers as elected this morning are: Rev. W. B. S. Chandler, president; Dr. C. C. Weaver, vice president; S. G. Hawfield, secretary-treasurer. Directors—Dr. Mahoney, Gus Henderson and Eugene Ashcraft.

Carolina Apple Crop Practically Unharmed

Raleigh, May 14.—A close inspection of the apple orchards in the northwest relieves the fears of apple growers that last week's cold spell had harmed the apple crop. Revenue Commissioner R. A. Doughton reported today after a trip to his home in Sparta. It was thought at first, Commissioner Doughton said, that the apple crop had been ruined, but the damage is not great, although the fruit had a narrow escape from the effects of a low temperature.

Some women argue in the same way they got off a street car.

MARSHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CLOSES SUCCESSFUL TERM

Commencement exercises of the Marshville High School began Thursday night with a declamation and recitation contest, in which Miss Glenie Morgan won the reciter's medal while the declaimer's medal was won by Rommie Pierce.

The annual debate was held Friday night, the question being, Resolved: That the United States government should own and operate the railroads. In this contest the negative, which was represented by Margie Marsh and Hal Griffin, won the decision, while Margie Marsh won the medal as best debater. The affirmative was represented by Haskill Bivens and Zeb Strawn and they made a most excellent showing.

The annual sermon was preached to a large audience Sunday afternoon in the school auditorium by Dr. Rowan of Concord. Last night the graduating exercises by the class of sixtyle were held and the medals were awarded.

The closing number of the commencement exercises will be given tonight when the high school students will present the play, "The Wren." The closing term has been one of the most successful in the history of the school, Prof. Biggers and his corps of teachers having done faithfully and efficiently.

SIXTEEN KILLED, 100 INJURED IN TORNADO

Colorado, Texas, May 14.—Sixteen dead and 100 injured were reported late today as a result of the tornado which tore through Mitchell county, south and east of here early today. The injured are in the hospital, churches and many private homes here. Some were hurt so seriously that their deaths are expected.

The tornado descended in Mitchell county between 4 and 5 o'clock this morning and caught most of its victims and left death and injury in its wake for 30 miles. Starting south of Westbrook, it continued for seven miles through the county just west of Loraine.

All the deaths were in more or less isolated farms. Due to the distance between farms and demoralization of wire communication it was expected here it would be many hours before the entire district could be heard from.

Citizens of towns near the storm swept area rushed first aid, provisions and relief supplies for the victims.

Work of organizing rescue parties for the storm stricken area was almost completed late this afternoon. Between 400 and 500 refugees, besides the injured, are here and temporary kitchens have been erected to provide them with food. More are coming in.

EXPECTS TO SHORTEN HER VERBOSITY SOME

Indian Trail, May 14.—Since my most worthy contemporary, the Stout correspondent, thinks that I am verbose, I shall endeavor to make my articles to this paper shorter. That is, for a while—until she cools down a little. I think, however, that she is just jealous of my space in the paper. She must think her articles are so very interesting and important that she needs two columns. Well, I'm not quite that free-hearted. I will allow her part of my column, but I can't afford to let Stout run Indian Trail completely out of sight.

Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Garrison of Charlotte visited friends and relatives here Saturday.

The Rev. Mr. Joe Morris and family of Fallston visited Mr. Morris' brother, Mr. D. T. Morris, last week.

Miss Eva Wilbon and her brother of Wilbon, visited Misses Annie and Kate Crowell last weekend. Miss Kate returned to Wilbon with them, and she will visit friends in Raleigh and Fuquay Springs before returning.

Mesdames E. H. and Holmes Morris and Miss Mayme Price of Monroe visited the Crowells last Tuesday.

Cletis, the small son of Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Deese, had the misfortune of breaking his arm while cranking a Ford last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Underwood of Charlotte visited friends here Monday.

Mr. T. A. Plyler and her small son, T. A. Jr., are visiting Mrs. Plyler's nieces and nephews, the Crowells.

Miss Davie Morris invited several of her friends to dine with her last Sunday. Her mother served a birthday dinner both for her and for her brother Warren—his birthday being Saturday and Miss Morris' Monday.

Mrs. Morris served a splendid dinner, and it was thoroughly enjoyed by each guest.

The Junior members of the Epworth League presented a cantata, "Hearts of Gold," Sunday evening. The Angel of Flowers summoned Mother Earth and her other helpers early in the program. She then summoned the flowers who appeared bearing the messages which the Heavenly Father teaches the children through the flowers. The program was very interesting as well as helpful. Many beautiful lessons were learned from these flowers, and the cantata was enjoyed by a large audience.

SOUTHERN BULLS BOUGHT HEAVILY ON PEAK MARKET

Northern Bears Were Cautious But May Get Worst End of Bargain

PRESENT SURPLUS MUST DISAPPEAR

Charlotte, May 12.—The decline in cotton prices during the past four or five weeks, with the resultant demoralization of the market for yarns and cotton goods, is playing havoc with the peace of mind of southern cotton manufacturers, according to expressions from a number of textile men in this city and section during the past few days. Cotton has declined six to eight cents from the peak attained a few weeks ago and quite a number of southern mills are pretty well stocked with raw cotton purchased at or near the peak.

Practically all southern manufacturers have been bulls on cotton, while their New England, brothers have been bears. New England mills bought very cautiously while prices were higher and, consequently, are in an advantageous position just now, being able to sell yarns and goods at the lower levels while southern manufacturers, loaded with cotton bought at the higher prices, are not able to take on new yarn or goods contracts at the present basis.

Are Confident Still

The manufacturers of this section do not think they have made a mistake. They believe that the cotton is worth what they paid for it and that, in the end, they will be in better position than the New England manufacturers who are having their turn now. They believe that the present surplus of cotton will disappear before the new crop is harvested and is spinable. They believe firmly that the recent decline has resulted from gross speculation and manipulation and that the price of raw cotton will go back to the levels of a few weeks ago. There is a possibility, many believe, that prices will go far beyond the recent peak. This, they argue, will certainly happen if weather, labor or other conditions should result in a small or even an average crop this year.

The attitude of the mill men is voiced in an editorial in the current number of the Southern Textile Bulletin just from the press, which declares that the textile industry is facing a very serious problem.

"It is not the decline in the price of cotton but the fact that Washington politicians in co-operation with the big cotton speculators can within the space of a few weeks completely disrupt the course of business in the textile industry and change a period of moderate prosperity into one of absolute stagnation of buying," declares The Bulletin.

"Several weeks ago a well known financial writer called attention to the fact that the Harding administration was opposed to a boom this year because they feared it would be followed by a depression in 1924 that would prevent the re-election of Harding. He said that it was the purpose of the administration to check the rise in prices so that there would be a reaction followed by a boom in 1924 that would benefit them politically. Very few believed his statement, but the course of events since then certainly seems to sustain his view.

Administration a Bear

"Whenever any statement has been needed to assist the bear side or any special report, it has been promptly furnished by men prominent in administration circles and so active has been the department of agriculture as to lead to the open accusation that some officials of the department have been speculating on the bear side.

"As each month has rolled around since last October there have been opportunities for cotton corners but none have resulted and it has been generally understood that the federal trade board has warned the big speculators against corners. Now Livermore and his associates have, by selling over a million bales of futures, put cotton down more than six cents per pound without protest from the federal trade board and at every stage of the bear raid he has been assisted by reports and statements from administration circles.

"There has been no overbuying of cotton goods or cotton yarns and we are facing a shortage of cotton together with grave uncertainty relative to the 1923 crop being large enough to meet the requirements of consumption.

"When the big cotton speculators have taken profits upon the million bales they sold short we will be able to see the real situation more clearly and confidence based upon sound conditions will return."

The cotton mills are not the only sufferers from the present situation. Assuming that there are still 2,000,000 bales of cotton in the hands of southern farmers and market associations, the loss to the farmers as a result of the recent decline is \$120,000,000 or more. This reduction in the purchasing power of the farmer in turn hits the retail merchant and through him the jobber and manufacturer of other products than cotton.

(Continued from page five)